

THE SOUTHERNER.

The Southerner.

TARBORO: JULY 31.

FOR PRESIDENT,
FRANKLIN PIERCE.
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
WILLIAM R. KING.
OF ALABAMA.

FOR GOVERNOR,
DAVID S. REID.

The Agricultural Society.

Our readers are particularly requested to remember the meeting of this Society, to be held on next Thursday week. The business is of great importance, and a full attendance and early meeting are very much desired.

Railroads—the Dinner.

On our return from Petersburg on Thursday last, and by the way, these Railroads are very convenient in their arrangements, we stopped a few moments at the Democratic Dinner at Rocky Mount. According to the present express schedule, we arrived about 3 o'clock—the train passing over the whole line, from Petersburg to Wilmington by daylight. Cars elegant, roads smooth, speed rapid, and time all daylight, what more could one wish in a trip to either of those places? It is really so easy and pleasant as to afford a fine recreation; and to make it also pleasant in purse, the Petersburg Company have lowered their rates to \$2 50. Try it.

As above stated, we got in, just at the tail end (of course the whig portion) of the speaking. We remained only something like half an hour, gathered up the news, and posted off in haste. We understood that the speeches of the County candidates, and Gen. Singletary, were very good indeed, and from what we heard, friend Hyman was giving his declining cause quite a creditable bolstering. However, for hot weather, and a fat man, it was rather too much of a burden.

Letters were received from Messrs. Strange, Dobbin, Branch, Kennedy, and Diggs, which will be published in our next. They were read to the audience in a clear and emphatic style by Mr. Bonner.

Voters of Edgecombe!!

On Thursday next, it will be your duty to exercise the noblest privilege of freemen—the right of suffrage. As a right, it behooves you so well to examine it, as to clearly understand the principles which you are called on to support—so independently and judiciously to exercise it, as will most certainly perpetuate it in its purity and power; and thereby give the greatest stability and efficacy to the institutions, under which we live. And as a duty, surely your patriotism, your deep and abiding love and veneration for our present system of government—this glorious embodiment of true liberty—makes any appeal to your feelings unnecessary. Have you not been nurtured in the old Jeffersonian school, and imbued and cherished through life, a deep devotion to the principle, that the people are capable of self-government, and are always willing and ready to exercise it? Have you not indeed battled for it long and vigorously, amid the victorious shoutings of federal conquerors? Have you not, when the clouds were darkest, when whiggery seemed to have covered with an impenetrable pall our beloved Old State, still energetically strove to illumine her darkness, and to make her true to the great principles of Republicanism which have preserved our liberty and upheld our institutions? The records of the past bear testimony of your judicious, manly determination and your indomitable perseverance—the present demands that you prove worthy of the praises which these have drawn from the most reluctant lips—and the future points to the glorious consummation of your highest hopes, the just vindication of your patriotic course, and the lasting supremacy of Democracy in our glorious Old State.

Edgecombe has been the "stand by," the bold reserve who have rallied at all times and to every call. And though every advance was to face defeat, still has she struggled, still has she re-formed and brought her heavy artillery to bear on her weakening enemy, and now, now, when the last great, avowed, victorious blow is to be struck for her long-cherished principles, when he who leads the van must receive the palm, shall she falter and others merit the prize? Rise, voters of Edgecombe, and rally to the call of your noble old mother, rise and sustain your glorious name. And when beneath the shades of the majestic Old Hickory, which we shall plant in the genial soil of our steady Old State, the exultant shout of victory and suc-

cess shall be raised, let her clarion note, longer, louder, deeper than before, ring through every valley, reverberate from every hill-top from the mountain to the shore.

The Difference.

From the extras and circulars, which are floating about our county, our readers will readily perceive that there has been a marked difference between the actions of our gubernatorial candidates. While Gov. Reid has laid down his principles in plain and unmistakable terms, and advocated them with a lucidity that could mystify no one, Mr. Kerr has presented to the people a course so anomalous that even the most acute are often puzzled. Believing in principles, which are the essence of whiggery, he yet advocates or assents to such as are perfectly antagonistic. Determined on success, if it is attainable by pandering to whiggery, or servilely cringing to every popular democratic measure, he has been forced to make his speeches so verbose, for the purpose of concealing their inconsistencies and demagogism, that as before said, the most discriminating minds are mystified. The testimony of respectable witnesses to contradictory versions of his speech at Greensboro',—testimony unimpeachable, completely prove what we have said. We know that both have been certified to what they believe true; and we knew, from having heard him, that his speeches would lead to such. Expecting to "cover a multitude of faults" under his beautiful figures and his fine words, he marked out a policy too incongruous not to lead to such consequences. Based as all Whig policy must be on the principle, that the people must be deluded into the support of whatever is for their good, perhaps he is pardonable. But can you, citizens of democratic Edgecombe, who have believed so faithfully the reverse, consent to its triumph? Surely not. Remember then that every vote not given is a loss, and of course a consequent gain to his opponent, and come to the polls in the majesty of your might and give your full, undivided support to frank, straightforward David S. Reid.

In proof of what we have said above, we copy the following extracts all from Whig papers:

"Mr. Kerr most distinctly declared himself for a Convention called according to the provisions of the Constitution; but insisted that the voice of the majority would and ought to secure the constitutional number of the Assembly to effect it—that this was the true Republican doctrine."—*Greensboro' Patriot*.

"We have been told by a gentleman who resides in Marion that Mr. Kerr there said, as he said here, that if elected Governor he would recommend to the Legislature to pass a law submitting to the people to say whether they desire a Convention. Gov. Reid remarked that that was the first time he had heard such a declaration, and enquired how it came that it was then first mentioned; to which Mr. Kerr replied that he had been requested by a political friend to say so!"—*Mountain Banner*.

"Mr. Kerr said that if elected he would recommend to the Legislature to pass a law for submitting to the people to say whether they wanted a Convention; and if a majority of them voted for a Convention he said the Legislature was bound to call one."—*ib.*

"He (Mr. Kerr) was in favor of submitting it to the people to say whether they were satisfied with it (the Constitution) or not; and when submitted to them, he would vote for a Convention."—*Register*.

"He said he had no objection to the extension of the privilege of voting for a Senator, to all those who now have the privilege of voting for a Commoner, but he did object to the mode of amendment proposed, viz: Legislative enactment—that his opinion is, that all amendments to the Constitution should be made by a Convention—that in the present state of things in North Carolina, when different and various propositions to amend the Constitution appear to be desired, by large and highly respectable portions of our citizens, it is a duty of the Legislature to pass a law and submit the question directly to the people to vote for a Convention or no Convention; and if a majority of the State want a Convention, that it then becomes the moral and political duty of the Legislature to call a Convention in the constitutional mode—that if elected Governor, he shall call the attention of the Legislature to the subject, and recommended the passage of a law to submit the question to the people, and that he should vote for a Convention."—*Register*.

"We see that the Rep. & Pat. states that Mr. Kerr is the advocate of an open, unrestricted Convention!! Where did the Rep. & Pat. learn this? We KNOW, FOR WE HEARD IT, that in his speech in New-Berne on the 28th ult., Mr. Kerr said, in express terms, that HE DID NOT ADVOCATE A CONVENTION. Is it likely that in Elizabeth City, where such a stand would have done him more injury than here, that he should have advocated an open Convention, and declared within a week or less here, that he DID NOT advocate a Convention of any kind?"—*Newbernian*.

Read, Ye Voters, and ask yourselves the question, can any honest man, who believes in our institutions, give his support to one, who thus believes, that the people must be duped into doing what is for their own good? then vote for John Kerr, if you choose. But remember that when your be-

lief becomes really true, Liberty must have proved a humbug and its race be nearly run.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE SOUTHERNER.

Society—Public Opinion.

I am much indebted to you, Mr. Editor. May your shadow never be less! For I saw last week, with eyes, my former letter (addressed to you with becoming diffidence), printed in the columns of the *Southerner*, so that he who ran might read. I know not how it has been with others, but when I first realized that I was an author, I felt proud,—not conceited, not unworthily puffed up,—but honorably legitimately elevated. As the publication of the epistle has produced the desideratum of its author, I feel warranted in making a second attempt.

A first work, however, is one thing; and a second is another altogether. When Homer had finished his Iliad, do you think he had no misgivings about the Odyssey? Did Milton flatter himself that Paradise Regained would add to his reputation for having written Paradise Lost? Alas, for the blindness of authors, such were his hopes! But as Camoens is made famous by one Lusid—why may not I be rendered so by one letter? But seriously to my subject.

I stated in my former letter, that private gossip was the parent of public opinion. I propose in this, in reasoning a priori, to treat of public opinion in its connection with society.

Civil governments are usually permanent in their organization, and the principles upon which they are based are fixed in their character, and uniform in their tendency; they enact, and publish, and expound their laws, and whatever may be their particular form the precedents of the past are guides for the present, and whether to furnish or protect their subjects, they are restrained and controlled by the constitutions which create them. But social government has no systematic or permanent organization. All acknowledge its influence, all bow in meek humility to its requirements, and all dread its punishment; and yet its laws are embodied in no statute books, they are expounded by no jurist, there is nothing stable in their character, or tangible in their decisions.

There have been tyrannies of a thousand kinds, tyrants of a thousand characters; but never since the time when Cain went forth from his kindred with the brand upon his forehead, has there been a tyranny so abject in its influence, so uncompromising in its exactions, so relentless in its punishment, and so hopeless in its bondage, as the tyranny of public opinion. The criminal condemned by the laws of the country to pay the penalty of his crime, may elude the grasp of the ruthless executioner—he may be reprieved by a power higher than that which pronounced his sentence.—The prisoner immured in a dungeon may escape from the bondage of his lonely cell, and breathe again the pure air of heaven, and look again upon the glad earth, and walk once more buoyant in hope among his fellows,—but from the dread tribunal of public opinion there is no escape. Its brand once fixed, is indelible; from its judgment once rendered, there is no appeal; from its cold unfeeling punishment, there is no refuge; save in the silence of the grave.

As society improves, as knowledge is diffused, and the people become educated, public sentiment becomes enlightened, and each succeeding age is enabled to mark the errors, and improve upon the suggestions of that which preceded it; and while in this nineteenth century we shudder at the records of the history of our race, blackened as they are with enormity and stained with crime, we may console ourselves with the assurance, that as the world becomes wiser, it becomes better; and while we weep over the annals of tortures which have been inflicted in former times, we may rejoice that the fires of Smithfield have gone out forever, and that tragedies like that of St. Bartholomew, will never be re-enacted.

Public sentiment when rightly directed is a powerful safeguard—when wrongly influenced, it is a fearful engine. It frowns upon vice, and the people to outward appearance are virtuous; it winks at immorality, and crime struts forth from its hiding places in all the fearlessness of unbridled leisure. The popular breeze is ever fickle, the popular current ever shifting; and he who trusts his bark to them should be prepared to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm, or be dashed in pieces by their fury.

The idol of to-day is often the victim of tomorrow; for society ever lauds its favorites without distinction, and punishes its victims without remorse; and yet notwithstanding the danger of a reliance upon the popular favor as a safeguard from danger, or a stepping stone to power, the history of the past and the experience of the present, afford innumerable instances of the prostitution of genius, of wealth, of influence, and of character, to win the favor of the people. Had Lord Bacon been true to himself, and to the principles which he has laid down as rules of human action, his name had not gone down to posterity overshadowed by the charges of dishonesty and corruption. While we regard him as a benefactor to his race, we cannot forget that for the crime of having raised his voice in defence of the Commons, he stooped to kiss the foot of Buckingham for pardon; that for the sake of obtaining influence at Court, he prosecuted with all the tenacious virulence of an enemy, the friend, and confident, and companion of his earlier years. That while he was the greatest and wisest, we cannot forget that he was also the meanest of mankind—that where rose pure incense to the God of light, there also curled the smoky fumes of the apostate's sacrifice.

There were no limits to the graspings of his ambition, no slaking to his thirst for gold. He stooped from his high position of

Lord Chancellor to touch the meanest things, and touching he polluted them. As his rise was rapid, and his position honorable, so was his fall sudden and ignominious. The seal of public opinion was placed upon his acts, and he retired to private life with none who had caressed, and flattered, and fawned upon him, so poor as to do him reverence.

No reliance can be placed upon popular favor. The same populace which hung Cromwell in effigy at Tyburn, buried him in State at Westminster Abbey. At one time they hated him with the most rancorous hatred—at another they loved him with the most earnest and self-denying devotion.

Perhaps there is no stronger instance of the fickleness and tyranny of public opinion than in the life of Lord Byron. Society at first lauded him above his merits.—Whatever he wrote was seized with avidity, and read with admiration. He was hailed by the whole English nation as the greatest of living poets, eclipsing if possible all those who had gone before him. Faults and excesses which in men of meaner mould would have been stigmatised as vices, in him were excused as the eccentricities of genius. He was not the less courted by reason of their indulgence by men and women whom the world called virtuous. But the reaction came. Society suddenly became rigidly virtuous; it leaped in an instant from an excess of licentiousness to an excess of prudery, and called loudly and lustily for an example. It was thought that the sacrifice of one man would expiate the social offences of the whole English nation, and Lord Byron was selected as the victim. If society had been injudicious in its approval of him, it was stark mad in its condemnation. The same mob which at the outset of his career hailed him with the most extravagant laudations, heaped upon him the most opprobrious epithets, and in the excess of their virtuous indignation, hissed him from his native shore forever. Society knew little of his offences and he cared less. It was the popular will which he sacrificed, and the question of his guilt or innocence was a matter of trifling consequence. Had society treated him even with the justice due to his offences, Lord Byron had not betrayed his trust and lent his gift of glorious faculties to mar and blight the moral universe, and set adrift the anchored hopes of millions. We cannot wonder that his disposition was soured,—that he became distrustful of his fellow men, and turned to pour forth his bitterest invectives against those who had so deeply and unfeelingly condemned him. Society first spoiled him by its over-weening fondness, and then punished him for yielding to the temptations it cast before him.

I am no apologist for vicious or immoral tendencies. It is important that a community should set its face against every thing detrimental to the happiness or safety of its members. It is proper and laudable that all who transcend the bounds of decency should be compelled to answer at the tribunal of public opinion, and if found guilty, be punished accordingly. But society should be uniform in its action—there should be nothing fatal in its impulses. It should not crush the weak and protect the strong; it should not wink at the excesses of Dives, because by reason of his gold he exerts an influence in the aristocracy of wealth, and yet have a virtuous spasm over the derelictions of Lazarus because he hath not where to lay his head. Ordinarily, society is neither judicious nor just in its punishments; it never takes the trouble to enquire into the guilt or innocence of the accused, before pronouncing upon him the sentence which shuts the gates of honor on him. In nine cases out of ten the execution of the culprit takes place before any investigation has been had, or any tangible evidence offered of his guilt. The public constitutes itself accuser, judge, jury, and executioner; and with a dogged determination to condemn the accused, ever presumes him to be guilty; and by the very tenacity of its determination, puts it out of the power of the culprit, even if it were possible, to prove himself innocent. D.

POLITICAL.

Gen. Pierce's Cowardice.

Brevet Brigadier Gen. P. F. Smith's, and Brevet Col. Riley's brigades (Fogg's division), supported by Brigadier Generals Pierce's and Cadwallader's brigades (Pillow's Division) were more than three hours under a heavy fire of artillery and musketry."—*Gen. Scott's Report, Aug. 19, '47*.

"The two advanced divisions and Shield's marched from Contreras, under the immediate command of Major General Pillow, who was now joined by the gallant Brigadier Gen. Pierce of his division, personally thrown out of activity late the evening before by a severe hurt received from the fall of his horse."—*Gen. Scott's Report, Aug. 28, '47*.

"The division commander cannot forego the opportunity presented to acknowledge his obligations and express his admiration of the gallant bearing of Major General Pillow, and Brigadier Generals Shields, Cadwallader and PIERCE, with whom he had the gratification of concert and co-operation at various critical periods of the conflict."—*Worth's Report, Aug. 28, '47*.

More Prairie Fires.—All over Indiana and Illinois the fires are sweeping, carrying all before them.

Tom, Walpole.—This gentleman addressed the Democrat club on last Friday evening with great effect. His efforts will tell on the ranks of Whiggery between this and November, or we are no judge of stump speaking.

Indiana Sentinel.

Whig Senator from Hancock county, Indiana, and the Whig candidate for elector at the last presidential canvass. He never before breathed aught but Whiggery.

We found on our late trip on the Jeffersonville railway similar changes in every town on the route, and at Rockford one of the orators of the railway celebration was the late Whig orator of the neighborhood, but now for Pierce and King.—*Louisville Dem.*

Tur and Feathers—Webster's Wit.—When Daniel Webster heard of the nomination of Gen. Scott and Mr. Graham of North Carolina, he remarked "Scott and Graham! Good Heavens! has the Whig party come to that? Feathers and Tar!"

Mr. T. Waddill, a Whig of Fayetteville, having been appointed a Vice President of the Scott and Graham club organized in that place, has published a card in which he declares he will not support Scott for President. We shall publish the Card in our next.

Republican and Patriot.

Scott in Tennessee.

At a Whig ratification meeting recently held at Knoxville, two sets of resolutions were introduced, one refusing to support Scott, and the other confirming his nomination. After a very heated discussion the meeting broke up in a row.

"With the exception of the year I was in the army, I have been wholly devoted to my profession, mingling but little in politics unless when the activity and recklessness of the dangerous element of abolitionism has demanded the best exertions of all true men."

Pierce's letter to Col. Claiborne, May 17th 1852.

"I accept the nomination upon the platform adopted by the Convention, not because this is expected of me as a candidate, but because the principles it embraces command the approbation of my judgment; and with them I believe I can safely say there has been no word or act of my life in conflict."

IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, respectfully solicits the patronage of the public in Tarboro', its vicinity, and Edgecombe co. generally. He has ample and safe room for the storage of Naval Stores, Grain, and other produce; his charges are moderate and quick dispatch invariably given to all business entrusted to his direction.

REFERENCES.

Macnair & Brother, Tarboro' N. C. William Bernard, Greenville, S. C.

A meeting of the Stockholders in the N. C. Railroad was held in Raleigh on the 8th inst., and from the report made thereto by the President and Directors, we glean the following particulars:

Contracts for grading the whole line have been effected, and also for the masonry of the bridges.

Estimates of the work actually done up to the 1st inst., show that \$292,366.92 has been expended in labor on the road. There are employed on it 1455 men, 403 boys, 560 carts, 50 wagons, 786 horses and mules and 44 oxen.

A call at different times for the amount of 45 per cent. on the stock subscribed by individuals, have produced only \$244,170; leaving a deficit of \$147,066.92 to pay for work already done.

As it is necessary, according to the Charter that half a million should be paid in before the State advances anything, the Company are endeavoring to collect the required amount in order to procure the advance from the State.

Warrenton News.

Mr. Clay's Will.—The Will of Mr. Clay, drawn by his own hand, and dated July 10th, 1851, was admitted to probate at Lexington, on the 12 inst. Some of its features are of interest, especially those having reference to his slaves.

By that clause, it is provided that the children of his slaves born after the first of January, 1850, are to be liberated and sent to Liberia, the males when they shall have arrived at the age of 28, and the females at the age of 25; that the three years' of their earnings prior to the emancipation are to be reserved for the purpose of fitting them out for their new homes; and that prior to their emancipation and removal they are to be taught to read, write and cypher. The slaves in being before the 1st January, 1850, are bequeathed to his family.

Of the 35 slaves owned by Mr. Clay, Abraham, the groomsmen, is the oldest, being near sixty. Adams, the gardener, is 55 years of age. Thornton, Mr. Clay's body servant, received from the hands of his master his free papers, but never left him, even after death, until the corpse was placed in the tomb.

From the Mobile Register.

The connection of the cities of New York and Chicago, by steam communication, is now complete. The distance between the two cities is one thousand miles, and the time of travel is reduced to forty two hours. A person may breakfast in New York, and sup the next evening in Chicago. The mode of travel is first from New York to Dunkirk, 469 miles, by the Erie Railroad, thence by steamer across the lake to Monroe, 240 miles, which is performed in twelve hours; thence by the Michigan Railroad to Chicago, 243 miles in eleven hours. The Great Central Railroad is to run southwest through Illinois, to Cairo, where it will ultimately connect with our city, by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Thus the great inland line or circle of communication, between Mobile and New York, through the heart of the mighty West, will eventually be established by most safe and speedy travel. The realization of this will not be more wonderful than the miracles that are already performed.

FOREIGN.

ARRIVAL OF

The Steamer Humboldt.

The steamer Humboldt has arrived, with dates from Havre and London, on the 7th. The following is the Liverpool commercial report:

Liverpool, July 6.—Cotton is flat. The sales for the past three days reached 5000 bales.—Prices unchanged.

MARKETS.

TARBORO' MARKET, July 31.

Tar river is again in boating order, and still rising—we therefore may anticipate a more active business in the produce line. We continue our quotations, without material variation.

Turpentine—Virgin dip, \$1 90; Old dip, \$1 80 to \$1 85. Scrape 40 cts. per 100 lbs. Tar, \$1 per barrel. Corn, \$2 75 to \$3 per bbl. Bacon, 11 to 12 1/2 cts. Lard, 11 to 12 1/2 cts. Fish—none in market. Cotton, 8 1/2 cts.

Washington Market, July 28.

Naval Stores.—The last sales were two flat loads the latter part of the week, one at 2 1/2, and the other at 2.50 for old Dip per bbl. of 280 lbs. Scrape 1.45 a 1.50 for 280 lbs; Tar 1.50 a 1.60 per bbl. Corn.—Last sales 55 a 57 1/2 cts. per bushel for a small lot from Hyde County—the market closing rather dull. Bacon.—11 a 11 1/2 cts. per lb. for long round. Lard.—11 a 12 cts. per lb. by the bbl. or keg. Herrings.—\$4 1/2 a \$5 per bbl. Nova Scotia whole. Mulletts.—\$5 a \$5 1/2 per bbl.

Reported for the Wilmington Herald.

Wilmington Market, July 28.

We learn that the River at Fayetteville, by intelligence received yesterday morning, was 2 feet 10 inches and falling. Business has been unusually dull, the receipts of produce from the country being limited. There are very few vessels in port and a general dullness on the wharves.

Turpentine.—The arrivals continue light and prices firm. We note sales since last report of 1200 bbls at 2 1/2 for Yellow Dip and 2 1/2 for virgin. Corn.—The two cargoes noticed in our last as being on the market have been disposed of, one at 72, the other at 70 cts per bush., some 3,500 bush. altogether. A lot of 5,000 bush. to order has likewise been received. Stock on hand fair; demand good.

Bacon.—We hear of no sales of consequence; the market continues as last reported. The article is scarce and demand good. The receipts from the country have been for some time very light. Last sales of hams at 14 cts. and shoulders 12 cts. per lb. Lard.—there is but a meagre supply on hand. We hear of no receipts or sales of consequence; the article is held at 13 cts. per lb. in bbls.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.

Elder BLOUNT COOPER will preach at White Oak meeting house on Monday after the first Sunday (2nd day) in August. Tuesday, 3rd, at New Hope; Wednesday, 4th, at Tosnot; Thursday, 5th, at Upper Town Creek; Friday, 5th, at Pleasant Hill.—*Cop.*

DIED.

At Rocky Mount, on Thursday morning last, Zucan Ferguson, Esq. In this county on Tuesday last, Miss Rhoda Leigh, aged 64 years one month and ten days.

Near Stantonburg, in this county, on Friday evening, the 23d inst., Zucan Peacock, after a protracted illness of seven weeks, which he bore with Christian fortitude. He was a good neighbor, a kind parent, and an affectionate husband.